

CLAW & FANG

Number 117
August 10, 1980

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This issue is dedicated to Snoopy.

SPACELANES #14

by Tony Watson

"Spacelanes" is a column devoted to news and reviews of the science fiction game genre. It is a regular feature of the amateur magazines Ruritania and Claw & Fang, and the professional gaming journal, Combat. "Spacelanes" is produced by Tony Watson, 1481 S. Palm #207, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

I will forsake any mini-reviews this time around. It's been a long time since I've prepared a "Spacelanes" and with the continued growth of this area of the war-gaming hobby, there's just too much news to report on.

First of all, I'd like to talk about the hobby's magazines. The Journal of the Traveller's Aid Society, put out by GDW, is now in its second year. As its name might imply, the publication deals primarily with GDW's SF role-playing game, TRAVELLER, and the material contained so far has been of high quality. There have been a few non-TRAVELLER game articles, but these have all been on other GDW SF games. The Dragon, TSR's magazine is now monthly and jampacked with articles. Most of the material is fantasy oriented, as one might expect from TSR given their product line and customer following, though some SF material and game reviews appear occasionally. The Space Gamer, once owned by Metagaming, has been sold to Steve Jackson and is now independent of any parent company. In an effort to stress this new independence, both Steve and editor Forrest Johnson are going to great pains to cover the entire genre. One new feature is a whole spate of capsule reviews, very short and not extremely detailed reviews of new games. What they lack in depth, they make up for in number. The magazine also features continuing columns on computer gaming and design. In another change, the magazine now appears monthly. Very nice.

Then there is Ares, SPI's foray into this field. Ares has met with mixed reviews. I like it. Like S&T, each issue has a game in it. Of the three issues appearing to date, none of the games have particularly excited me (The Wreck of the BMS Pandora was a particular disappointment.) While the games haven't thrilled me, I do like the magazine.

I like Ares because it is different from The Space Gamer and The Dragon. It's more of a science fiction magazine with a game in it, rather than a gaming magazine. Regular features include review columns on books, games and movies. Each issue so far has featured two SF or fantasy stories, and these have generally been of much better quality than usually appears in gamer oriented magazines. There have also been some fascinating science fact articles. Certainly worth the \$14 for six issues. Finally, we have Gryphon, put out by the same company that brings us Fire and Movement. Like F&M, Gryphon features indepth analyses of games; I found the premier issue to be of high quality and making for some very interesting reading.

As for games themselves, the various companies have been busy. GDW has come out with Bloodtree Rebellion, a game of guerilla combat on the planet Somber. The game situation and mechanics bear a remarkable resemblance to Vietnam. The game is becoming quite popular, and as usual, features GDW's excellent graphics. Most of the company's efforts have been in regards to TRAVELLER. The original three book set has been supplemented by two new rulebooks (the latest is HIGH GUARD which deals with Navy character and advanced starship rules) four supplements dealing with animal encounters, characters, and sample maps, and now, adventures. These latter are for referees only and provide the necessary data for pre-arranged adventures. The first of those is

(continued on last page)

1978HK GM: Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024

Winter 1908. FRANCE builds A Par (surprise, surprise!)

Spring 1909:

AUSTRIA (Berch): F Alb-Ion, A Gal MS A Boh, A Bud-Tri, A Rum S A Gal, A Vie S A Boh.

FRANCE (Stevens): A Par-Gas, A Bur S A Mar, F Mid-Spa(sc) S by F Por & A Mar,
F Bre-Mid S by F Eng, A Ber S RUSSIAN A Sil, F Nth-Mrg.

~~ITALY~~ (Ken Baker): A Pie-Mar S by F Lyo, F Spa(sc)-Mid S by F Naf, A Trl-Pie.

RUSSIA (Hightower): A Kie S A Mum, A Mum S A Sil, A StP-Lva, A Lvn-Pru S by F Bal,
A Sil S A War, A Nos MS A War.

TURKEY (Shreve): F Gon-Aeg, F Bla H, A Sev-Mos (chuckle) S by A Ukr, F Wes-Mid (chuckle, chuckle). (Those are Turkish chuckles, not GM chuckles.)

FALL 1909 ORDERS are due by 5 September 1980.

DRAW VOTES. "No" votes by Austria and Russia defeated the 5-way draw. France did not vote at all. Italy voted "no" to "the draw", which I presume is the 5-way; but he didn't know about the 4-way. Therefore, I am going to reconduct the vote and ask France to participate this time.

The draws proposed are:

- (1) 5-way (AFIRT)
 (2) 4-way (AFRT)

PLEASE VOTE ON BOTH.

Mark, your GOs were not in file, for some reason. But I have the set you sent. Actually, it seems to me that GO orders for your units last season would have wound up holds and supports anyway. I thought you had GOs and would have turned the place upside down for them if anything crucial had been at stake, but in this case your probably orders would have changed nothing. Sorry, anyway.

ITALY, as you see, is Ken Baker, 16250 Brookford, Houston TX 77059. David Loewenstein also sent s/b orders and I want to thank him very much for taking the time to help out.

ABOUT THE 4-WAY DRAW: While it is legal under my HRs to vote to exclude a Power equal in size to a Power included in the draw, I don't really like that as distinctly unfair. You may of course vote as you wish and I will announce the result. I am extending the vote on this only because we now have an Italy and he should have a chance to negotiate on this. However, technically, France's lack of vote is, in this instance, to be construed as "yes" and that is how it will be counted if the same result occurs next time.

PRESS (?): TIRANA (capital of Albania): The Austrian Navy has steamed out, leaving the local businessmen greatly enriched by the business the sailors brought in. The headline in the paper said it all: "TIRANA DOOM TODAY!"

Paid Advertisement

Write to BRUX Linsey, Bldg 11 Apt 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, NY 12189 for a sample of The Voice of Doom. Get a taste of the Barbage Disposal of Postal Diplomacy by reading its lively letter column, many articles, zany press, and sick humor! If you like a corny, crazy, nauseating Diplomacy zine, you'll love this one. Try it.

August 5, 1980

Dear Don:

Being in the forefront of modern intellectualism, the "Tomorrow" show has obviously taken an interest in your Demonstration Game by Famous Writers, 79CT. I enclose a transcript of a recent show, for which I convened an international panel of authors and poets to get their views on the matter. It might be of interest to your readers who happened to miss the show. Actually, the ratings suggested that we didn't have a single viewer that evening, which is marginally lower than our usual figure. However, we were up against "Sands of Iwo-Jima" that night, which generally does very well.

Sincerely,
/s/ Tom Snyder

Analysis of Demonstration Game 1979CT

Chapter 12 -- Positively 1904th Street by Tom Snyder et al.

Snyder: Good evening. We have with us tonight...to discuss one of the most monumental events of this or any other age...ahhh...we have with us tonight an international panel of famous writers. To my left--James Joyce of Ireland, Sigmund Freud of Austria...to my right--Bob Dylan of the U.S., and Albert Camus of France. Gentlemen, good evening.

To set the mood...ah...perhaps Bob you could give us an appropriate song. Perhaps something in the "Young Bob Dylan" style, before you became obscure and unintelligible.

Joyce: What's so bad about being obscure and unintelligible?

(General laughter)

Dylan: (Slowly, with a pronounced drawl)

The sounds of war is always hurrrd,
I gotta get myself deferred,
The dove She's an endangered burrrd,
I can not hear her calling (strum strum strum strum)
Well Tommy cud ya' take it pleeez--
I think I got some strange disceez--
There's blood aflowin' round my kneecz.
I fear that I'm a fallin' (strum strum strum strum strumma strumma strumma strum)

Snyder: Very nice...very nice. Well, as we say at the disco, let's get down on it. Mr. Camus, suppose you were Germany--how would you feel about your situation?

Camus: Well, I see we lost Berlin today, or was it yesterday? Not that it really matters when. Not that losing Berlin itself matters either, really. If I'm eliminated from 79CT it wouldn't kill me. And even if it did the universe would hardly be affected. It's all so unimportant--this whole discussion rather bores me, I'm afraid.

Snyder: WHAT? But of course, it's important! Particularly everything we talk about on the Tomorrow" show! Ohh--it's all so important--how can you say that. Unhhh... Unhhh... (bites his first knuckle until it starts to bleed)

Freud: Please, Mr. Snyder, relax. You seem to have a serious problem. Perhaps you should come around to my office during the week. In the meantime, here--take two of these little yellow pills. That is better.

If I may resume our discussion, I notice that England has a marked propensity toward building fleets. This is interesting, particularly in view of the German collapse. Perhaps England simply likes fleets, perhaps he enjoys the feeling of moving them around. Maybe it is their shape; I don't know, it's just a thought.

Snyder: Thank you. Uhh...Mr. Joyce, I see you've been...(yawns loudly) ... observing the Italian scene. What do you see as the significance there? [Continued overleaf]

Joyce: Well, we began of course with an assault on Austria. Soon there were just a few red patches amongst the green. Like holly bushes and poinsettias and its Christmas again in Killiecronkie with, "No, no, little James, don't eat the plum pudding, it hasn't been blessed yet", but I'm hungry and it's six o'clock with fat smelly men pinching my cheeks and I'm cold from the snow...

Snyder: Thank you, James. Perhaps its time for another song. (yawns again) Uhh--Bob-- that last was just a bit too "young"--could we move on to something from your existential negative romanticist phase?

Dylan: Ya mean sumthin' with a beat? (Laughter)

(With a lilting nasal twang)

Then take mah pieces off the board and fling them into space,
 Toss them all around the plaace, I don' care bout savin' faace,
 Let them leave without a traace,
 I don't care if people really think a lottameee;
 I'm tired of Dee-ploma-eee, I'm tircd of the warr,
 I don't wanna play no morrre,
 An' mah brains beat up an' sorrrre,
 An' I'll never capture Warr--
 saw (hell, its only folk music)
 So I think I'm gonna go an' play Mah-nah-poly.
 Heyy, Mr. Gamesmaster, Sir, put me in Cee Dee
 'Cause I'm longin' t' be free,
 An' mah boots...

Camus: (Applauds loudly, interrupting) At last, someone around here is finally talking some sense.

Snyder: Wow. (shakes head) Sorry, must have do ed off... Where are we? Dr. Freud-- how do you see the Turkish situation?

Freud: Ah yes, Turkey. Have you ever looked closely at Turkey on the map? Tell me-- what does it look like to you? Particularly in its relationship to Austria. I think the subconscious images suggested by this relationship have a very definite bearing on Austro-Turkish relations. Don't you, Mr. Snyder.

Snyder: Huh? Oh, I guess so. Whatever... Uh--And good night to all.

End of Chapter 12

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However, the Domonstration game, 1979CT, has been delayed as Blair Cusack (Russia) moved and didn't receive the last issue. Blair's new address is: 8816 46th Ave., NW; Calgary, Alta, CANADA T3B 1Y8. In the event he still fails to submit orders I am calling for standby orders from Ken Baker, 16250 Brookford Dr., Houston, Texas. (Ghi: Eric Verheiden, 200 S. Azusa Ave., #2, Azusa, CA 91702. Phone: (213) 334-3149.)

Current Positions

E: A Edi, F Bal, F Don, F Hel

F: F Bar, F Nth, F Mid, F Spa sc, A Ber, A Mun, A Kie, A Dur

G: A Sil, F Por

I: A Boh, A Gal, A Bud, A Tri, A Ven, F Bul sc, A Ser, F Gre, F Aeg

R: A Vie, A Rum, F Bla, A Ank, F Swe, A Fin, A Nwy, F Bar, A Smy,
 A Gal in retreat to Ukr or otb

T: F Con

R.I.P. Claw and Fang, 1-124. (WAIT! Why should I wish Claw and Fang to rest in peace? I hope Fangs' soul torments him until he revives the 'zine!) Well, we still have
POIGNARD #13 -- which will continue to be edited by
David Loewenstern, 12002 Audubon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116

1979CX Fall 1906:

VIENNA POST OFFICES CLOGGED BY TIDAL WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL HATE MAIL... "INTERNATIONAL DAY" IN SICILY...THREE-NATION SUMMIT IN ARCHANGEL BREAKS UP WITH NO CHANGE IN PARTICIPANTS' STATUS...ITALIANS TRADE TWO-FOR-ONE.

A.(Jim Cassity,9): Arum-bud, Abud-vie, Avie-boh, AtylSAven, Aapu-nap, Fadr-ion/b, Fion-tyn, Amun-kie/b, AvenS/ocdr(tri, apu, otb) F.Apie-tus.
owns: A., gre, ser, bul, ~~yes~~, rum, mun, NAP =9 even or B1 if Aven-r-otb.
E.(Scott Copeland, 4): Fspas-wme, FbarSAnwy-stp/b, Feng-nth.
owns: E., nwy =4 even.
F.(Jerry White, 5): Fbre-pic, Apic-bur, Abur-mar, ApieS I.Atus-ven,
Flyo-tyn/b. owns: F., por, spa =5 even.
G.(Paul Sallabedra, 6): Abel-ruh, Akie-mun/b, Fnth-bel, FberS/c,Fbal-pru/b,
FfinS E.Anwy-stp. owns: kie, hol, bel, swe, den, ber =6 even.
I.(Clark Reynolds, 3): Feme-ion/b, AromSAtus-ven.
owns: rom, ~~yes~~, ~~yes~~, VEN=2 R1.
R.(Gary Howe, 7): Fsmry-h, FtunS A.Fion-tyn, FpruS/c Asil-ber/b,
AmosS&AlvaSAsTp-h. owns: R., T., TUN =8 B1.
/=fails, b=bounces, c=cut, d=dislodged, o=no such order, r=retreats,
B=build, R=remove:
+!+!+ANNOUNCEMENTS+!+!+

1. COA for the GM after 9/2/80:

David Loewenstern
179 Rhoads Hall
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
phone: 215-645-5984

COA for Germany after 8/10/80:until 9/17/80:

Paul Sallabedra, 1266 Puerto Natales, Placentia, CA 92670.

after 9/17/80:

Paul Sallabedra, Apt. B-10, Koshland Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

+++PRESS+++

DEFINITION OF ITALIAN PIPE DREAM: French and English and Russian fleets wiping out the Red Scourge.

((ENGLISH PRESS)): Q.: What did Stalin do with his first 50 cent piece?
A.: He married her. ((before or after he had her executed?))

ENGLAND-ITALY: Everything is all straightened out, I think...

((ENGLISH PRESS)): In celebration of "National Kill a Greek Week," ((please give to us; pledge to the Jerry Lewis Kill-a-Greek Telethon)) England has signed an arms deal with Yemal Attaturk, President of the Turkish government-in-exile after the mysterious disappearance of Sultan Bernie.

ENGLAND-AUSTRIA: Our answer to your ultimatum will be sent via courier service. Members of this team of couriers include: James Bond, Force 10 from Navarone, Jack the Ripper, the Green Berets, and the Flying Nun. ((The Flying Nun??))

ENGLAND-FRANCE:

All we are saaaying...

Is give PEACE a chance...

MILKSOP TO ENGLAND.((Daniel Loewenstern kibitzer press)): I'm glad it's not "National Kill a Geek Week".

GER-AUS: Du bist einen grossen esel, mein Herr. Der Spiel ist nicht zu Ende!

GER-ENG: I will not give any of my territory to anyone. They will have to take it away. If the price for survival means putting my troops under foreign domination, I find my treasury without the necessary funds. Russia at least is a valiant foe as he fights both cunningly and without asking quarter. ((He does not ask for quarter because he wants all.)) Austria has finally shown his true shape, a jackal willing to let others do the dirty work and then jump on the defenseless prey. Last time at least he has found that his target is not without some resources.

MILKSOP TO GERMANY: What will Austria find this time?

ASSOCIATED GERMAN PRESS: The whole of the German nation has been greatly saddened to learn of the imminent demise of that great diplomat and publisher, Fangmaster. We can but hope that from the ashes of a once-mighty empire of international endeavor, that a new and brighter 'zine will emerge. ((HEAR! HEAR!))

EXCERPTS FROM THE AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES MANUAL:

Always be an example of Austrian courtesy and manners to the native. Try to understand the overpowering joy and confusion that will be exhibited by the natives when you deal with them. Be kind but firm.

Be especially considerate of old people and young children. The women may need extra special attention as they may experience an increase in libido -- under many circumstances private consultation may be necessary.

The native will undoubtably pledge and offer money and other valuables to you. Do not be modest; you deserve them. Turn in $\frac{1}{2}$ of these offerings to your commanding officer. Please note that the natives may forget about their pledges and leave their doors locked. This is a holdover from the previous government and shooting the lock off would be considered a quick and viable long-term solution to this bad habit.

If trouble should occur, you are under strict orders to display Austrian discipline. The execution of this discipline will be left to the individual soldier. ((At last, a code of ethics we all can live with!))

MILKSOP SOAP SUDS PRESENTS: As the Coat Turns, Ch. 2

As night falls, the curtain rises (and the audience leaves), and we listen in on a tete-a-tete-a-tete (ta-tete-tete) of Gerard le Gateau, Paul Porkessenfrau, and -- Great Scott! is it really? -- Scott the Great.

"Achtung, Gerard, you must not attack me. Ve haf nasty, cruel vays to keep you from attacking me."

"Vous misunderstandez moi. I don't want to attack vous. I just want safe passage through to strike out against Johann the Austrian terror."

"Perhaps I should mediate this. My mediation plan is simple (isn't the whole show?) You two shouldn't fight each other, only Johann."

Will Girard and Paul forget their differences and unite against Johann? Will they forget Johann and take out their agressions on Scott the Great? Why is Scott so great? For the answers to these and other questions ("Mommy, do I hafta go to bed now?") tune in next month for As the Coat Turns.

WASHINGTON (GM press): In order to increase registration, President Jimmy ("I am not a crock") Carter has announced a new program to revise the military manual along the lines of the Austrian Armed Forces Manual. PHILADELPHIA: Congratulations to Paul Sallabedra for exchanging a career (or is it "an adventure"? Of course, having the Spanish Inquisition's executioners torture you to death is an adventure, too.) in the Coast Guard for classes at U. of California. I think you got the better end of the trade.

PHIADELPHIA: Autumn and Winter 1906 and Spring 1907 are due (unless there are three votes for a seperation of seasons, in which case Autumn and Winter 1906 only) 6 September 1980 at 12 noon.

IN THE GOOD OL' WINTER TIME

1978HC Autumn 1907: Austria A Tri R Alb; England F StP R Nwy
 Winter 1907: Austria removes A Alb. England removes F Ion. Germany builds F Kiel, F Ber, A Mun. Italy even. Turkey builds A Con.
 Spring 1908 due September 10. Richard Kehrer has resigned so Wietze takes over. An England/Germany draw has been proposed.

PRESS FROM ENGLAND: F StP: You blasted Huns!...

A Sev: We will coordinate attacks to ensure the safety of the Balkans.

F Ion: Blub...Blub...Blub

England: If we (row) don't coalesce against Germany, the game is over.

+ + + +
 1979 AR Autumn 1905: Italy A Pie R Tyo; Austria A Mun R Tyo. Winter 1905:
 Austria (Goodrich) removes A Ukr. England builds A Edi. France builds A Par. Italy (Hart) even. Russia even. Turkey(McMillen) builds F Smy--will be one short.

Spring 1906 due September 10.

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1979CV Autumn 1905: England A Mun R Ber
 Winter 1905: Austria even. England builds F Edi, will be one short. France even. Turkey builds A Ank.

Spring 1906 due September 10. English-French draw did not pass. Change of address for Bruce Linsey to Bldg 11, Apt 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, NY 12189. FET draw proposed.

PRESS

(The press last month datelined PARIS should have read ANKARA.)

CON TO VIENNA: Since you insist on not writing I find myself forced to build an army. Prepare to lose Sev.

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1980AA Autumn 1902: Russia A StP R Mos.

Austria (NBR) will be one short. England builds A Edi. France even. Germany builds A Kie, A Mun. Italy even. Russia removes F Bal, F Sev.

Turkey removes A Con. Spring 1903 due September 10. Standby orders for Austria requested from Lee Ferrier, 3821 Annadale Ln., #19, Sacramento, CA 95821.

PARIS: I do not necessarily agree with what Germany says but I will defend to his death his right to say it!

FRANCE TO ITALY: If you're half as good as I've heard this move should be a disaster for me, otherwise.....!

MOSCOW: We warn the enemies of the motherland that our doomsday weapon, a field of 80 megaton snowballs, is poised for delivery to London and Berlin! "We will bury you"

BERLIN TO MOSCOW: At this time I would like to scotch the speculation and rumors, and confirm to you that I am basically anti-Russian. Better that you should hear it from a friend, right? P.S. Watch out for England, I don't think he's on your side, either.

MUNICH TO TURKEY: I'm an Ally--at least, I guess I must be somebody's ally. Were you talking to me?

BERLIN TO VIENNA: The enemy of my enemy must be...no, wait, uh, how did that go again? This is very confusing. Never mind.

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1978HV Winter 1905: Austria builds F Alb. England builds A Edi, A Lon, F Lvp. Germany even. Italy builds A Par (Impossible) will be one short.
 Russia NBR will be one short.

Spring 1906 due September 10. Change of address: Margaret Gemignani, 3200 N. E. 30th St., Ft Lauderdale, Florida 33308.

VIENNA: Italy please send me your address also why did you repeatedly refuse my offers of peace especially when England is picking up all your centers? Who is setting in Tunis and Spain?

(continued from page 1)

The Kununir which deals with a class of Imperial battlecruisers; more recent offerings include: Shadows/Annica Nova (an alien installation and a strange derelict starcraft), Research Station Gamma (an underwater research station filled with surprises) and Across the Bright Face, which I haven't seen yet. AZHANTI HIGH LIGHTNING joins MAYDAY and SNAPSHOT as TRAVELLER related games. This refines the basic SNAPSHOT combat system (a refinement of the original rules) and adds decks plans, fourteen in number and beautifully done, for an Imperial intruder craft.

Metagaming is continuing releasing their MicroGames. HOT SPOT, combat on a molten world, and ARTIFACT, Russians and Americans shooting it up on the moon as they attempt to gain control of an alien device found there, are the latest. Future releases include some fantasy topics and an INVASION OF THE AIR EATERS sequel.

Other companies have been busy as well. Yaquinto has brought out MARINE: 2002. Once again, the Russians and Americans going at each other with lasers on the cratered face of Luna. (Has the recent collapse of detente influenced these games?) Task Force brought out the pocket game INTRUDER this spring. If you liked the movie "Alien" you won't want to miss this one.

In the realm of miniatures, Heritage has brought out some boxed sets in what they call the "Galacta" series. Each box contains simple rules, painting guide, paints, a die, and a brush, along with some figures. The boxed idea is nice, but the sets are quite expensive for what you get. The figures are nicely done: very "Star Wars"ish. Ral Partha has done the same thing with fifteen millimeter pieces, and give you substantially more in terms of playing pieces though I don't know their quality or if painting supplies are included. Also in fifteens are Martian Metals' one of TRAVELLER figures. I can't comment because I haven't seen them or received the catalog I wrote for. That same company's pieces for OGRE/GEV are very popular.

Well, that touches on some of the highlights in the field. Hopefully, I haven't skipped anything too important. Next time, I'll try to get back to my mini-review format.

WHAT COMES AFTER CLAW & FANG?

Naturally, there has been some concern amongst Guest GMs and their players on what will happen to their games after issue #117. The Guest GMs will be given a choice of taking over the game completely or continue doing as they are now and send the results to me to send out. The latter will take longer but is sometimes necessary if a Guest GM does not have reproduction facilities. The "subscription" cost will simply be the postage, probably in the form of a stamped-self-addressed envelope.

There is at least one Guest GM considering turning his subzine into a full fledged zine. I have had some players express the wish that someone would take over publishing from me so that the group of players as a whole would stay together. If anyone is so inclined, please contact me. I reserve the name CLAW & FANG so you could call the zine whatever you like.

Bob Dylan sings about Diplomacy? See page 4 of
CLAW & FANG #117 sent your way by
Don Horton
16 Jordan Ct.
Sacramento, CA 9526



Scott Marley
12632 Swidler Pl
Santa Ana, CA 92705

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